

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO. 03-032

Proclaiming March 10 through March 16, 2003 ***Cover the Uninsured Week*** in Multnomah County, Oregon

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. 41 million people in the US do not have health insurance including 422,000 in Oregon and over 240,000 in our Metropolitan region.
- b. Most of the uninsured work at least part-time and have at least a high school diploma.
- c. People of color are twice as likely to be uninsured.
- d. People without health insurance are less healthy than those that have medical coverage, and miss more days of work or school.
- e. Have higher rates of diseases that go untreated and place greater demands on the health care system when they do finally receive care.
- f. Are more likely to leave bills unpaid, leading to bankruptcy and resulting in increased insurance premiums for all.
- g. People without health insurance may receive routine care in hospital emergency rooms, leading to overcrowding and delays in urgently needed services.
- h. The current economic slow down and cuts in public programs leave more people uninsured daily.
- i. Multnomah County is a major provider of care, delivering over 350,000 health visits on an annual basis.


The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

The week of March 10 through March 16, 2003 is ***Cover the Uninsured Week*** in Multnomah County, Oregon. The Board recognizes the urgency of seeking solutions to the issue of uninsurance and declares support for ***Cover the Uninsured Week***.

ADOPTED this 6th day of March, 2003.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON


Diane M. Linn, Chair